

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

... We Are God's People and the Sheep of God's Pasture ...

Psalm 100:3



December 10th – Second Sunday of Advent

ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.

God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection.

We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.

In keeping with our welcome, Good Shepherd is a *Reconciling in Christ* partner congregation, affirming our welcome to persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and our commitment to anti-racism work so that all may participate fully in the life of our congregation. We are an AMMPARO Welcoming Congregation - Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities.

The Good Shepherd buildings are Carbon Neutral/Net Zero Energy use.

Welcome guests! There is more information for you on the back of the bulletin.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

From Evangelical Lutheran Worship- ELW (red book in pew)
and All Creation Sings – ACS (purple book in pew)

Page numbers (p.) in front of red book and hymn numbers (#) in back of books;
congregational responses are in bold; rise in body or spirit when indicated by *

GATHERING

PRAYER BELL

PRELUDE: “Qui Sedes, Domine” - Brooke Joyce

WELCOME – ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.** God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

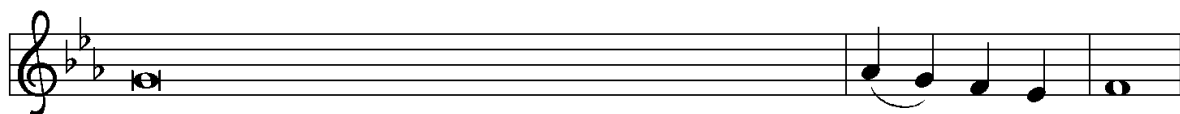
KYRIE:



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



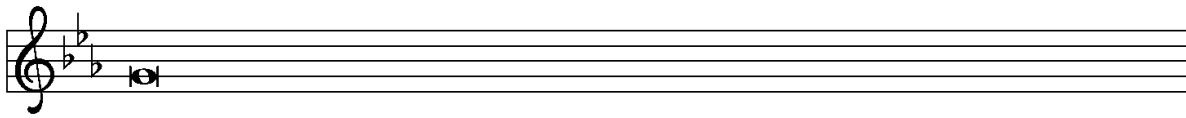
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



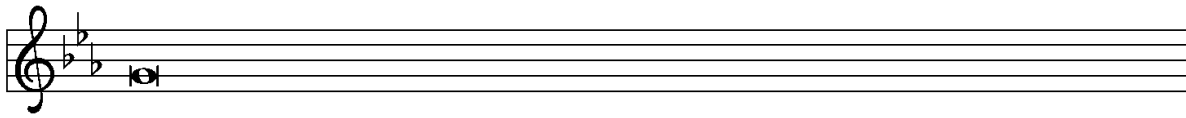
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

ADVENT WREATH LITANY

Praise to you, O God,

who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist
and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire.

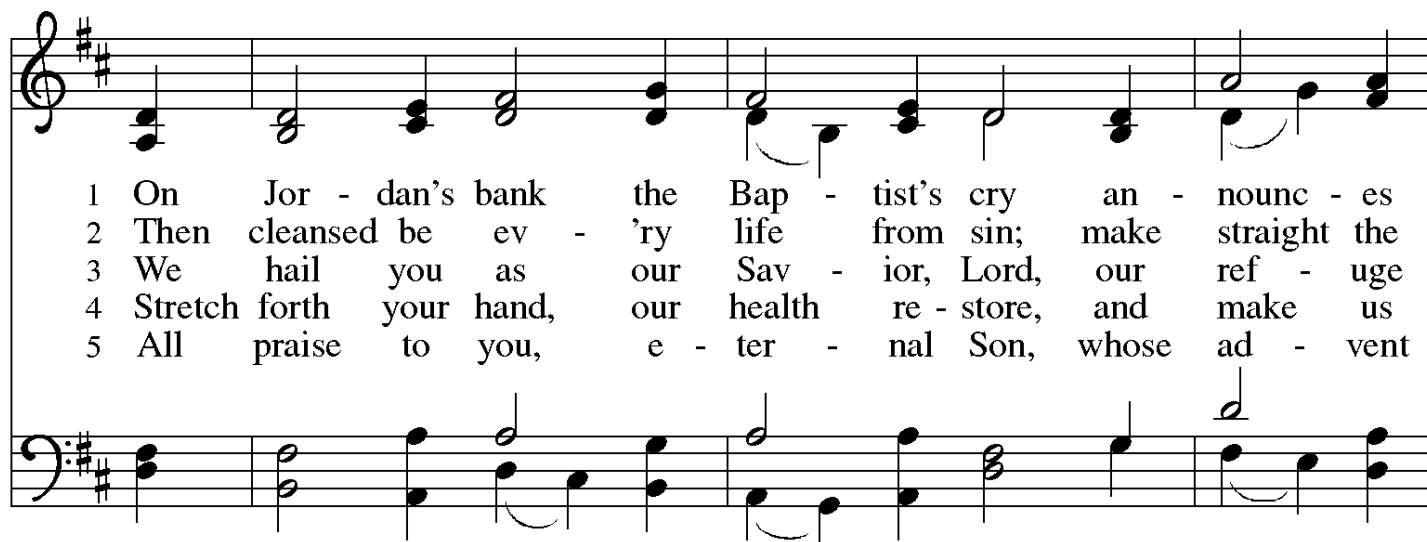
Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames;

teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare.

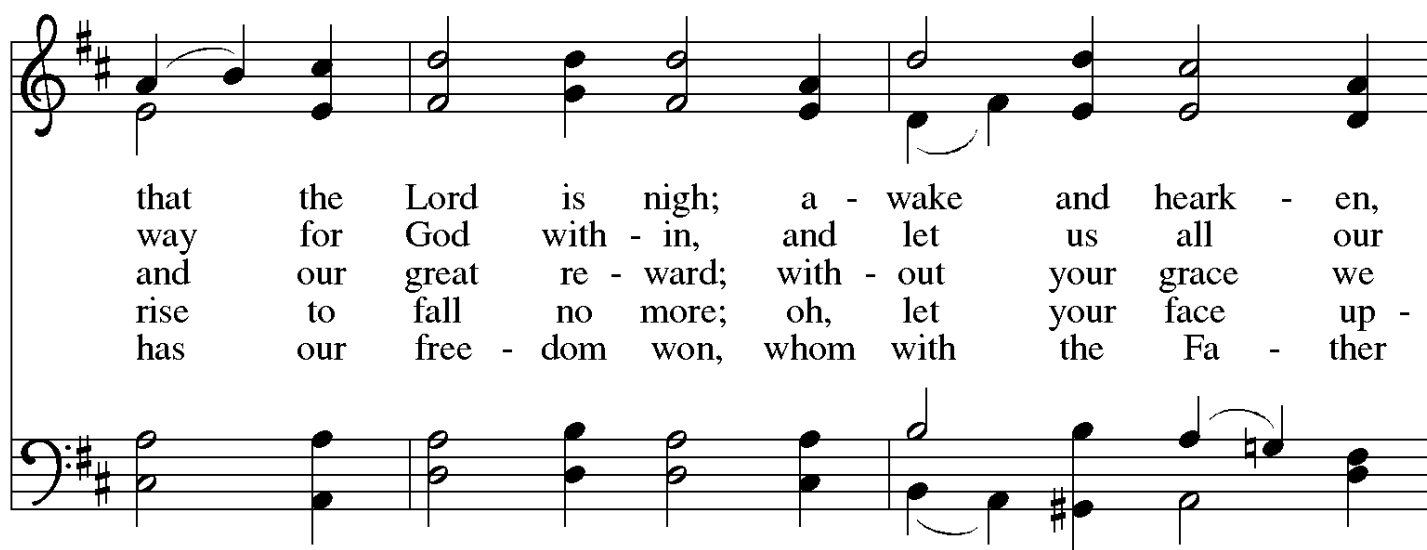
We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. Amen.

- Two Advent Candles are lit during the intro to the Gathering Song.

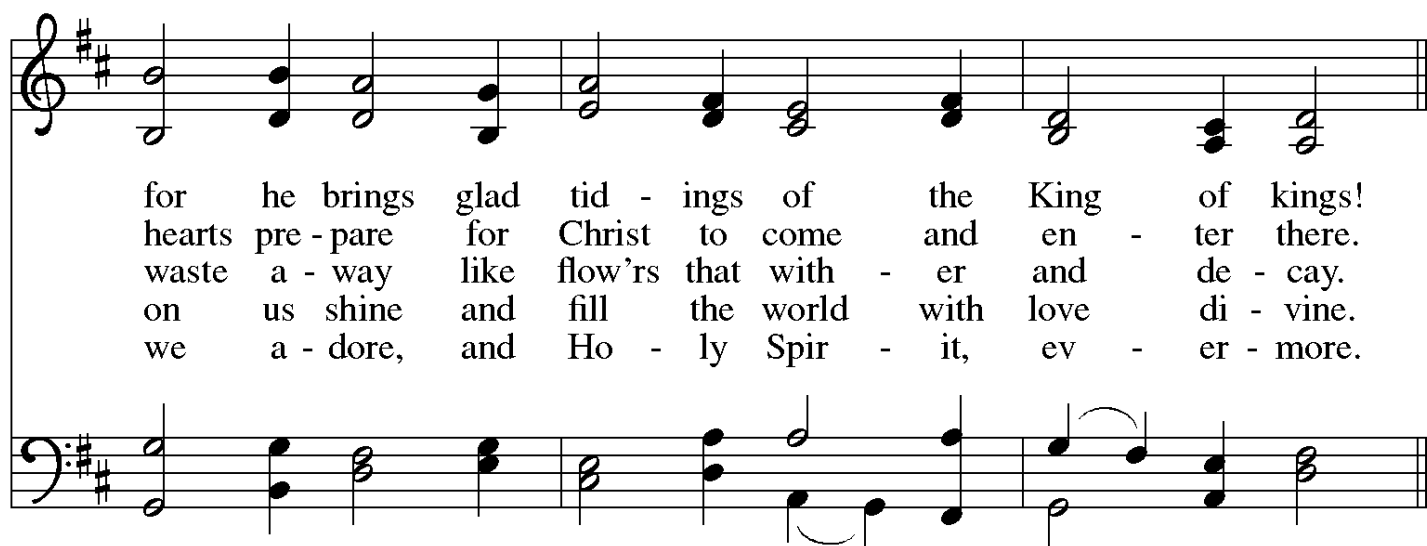
***GATHERING SONG: ELW 249 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

***GREETING:** From the one who is, who was and who is to come, grace and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY:** Let us pray...**Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

- Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.

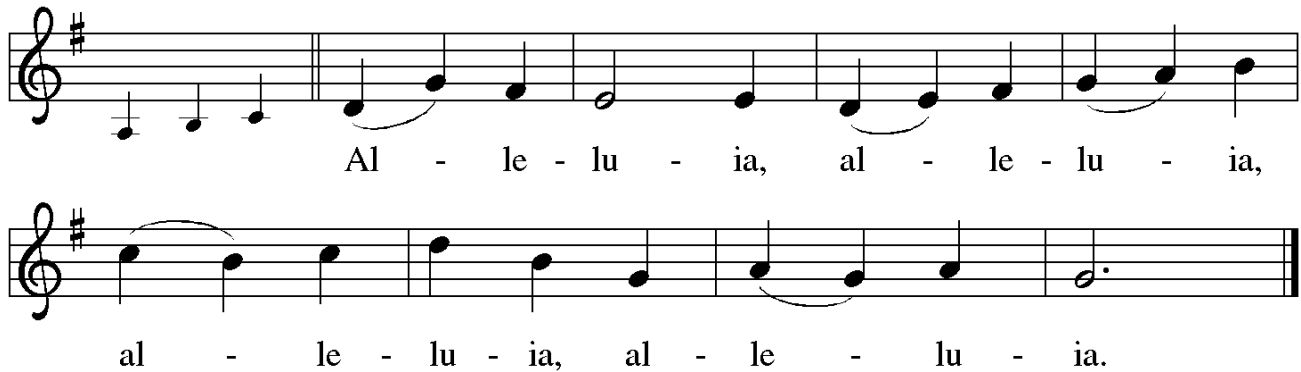
¹³**Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a}and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. - Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

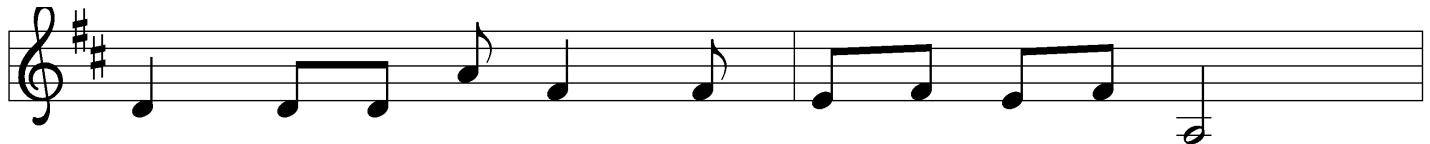
The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I

is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.
⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”
 The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

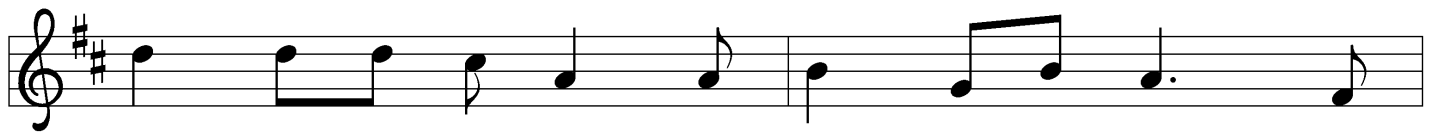
*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 266 All Earth is Hopeful



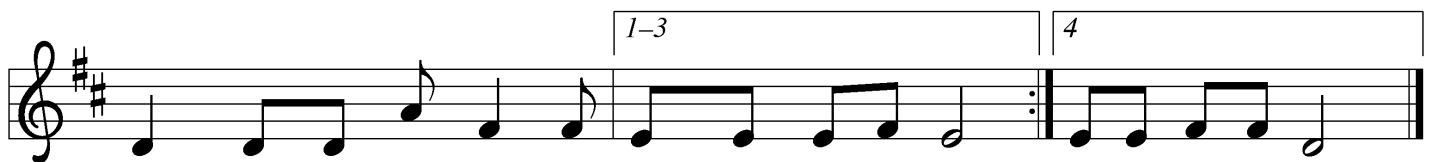
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra_al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y_el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 “A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el”; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, “God with us,” our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *Each petition ends...* Stir up your power O God, **Stir up your power and come.**

***PEACE:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

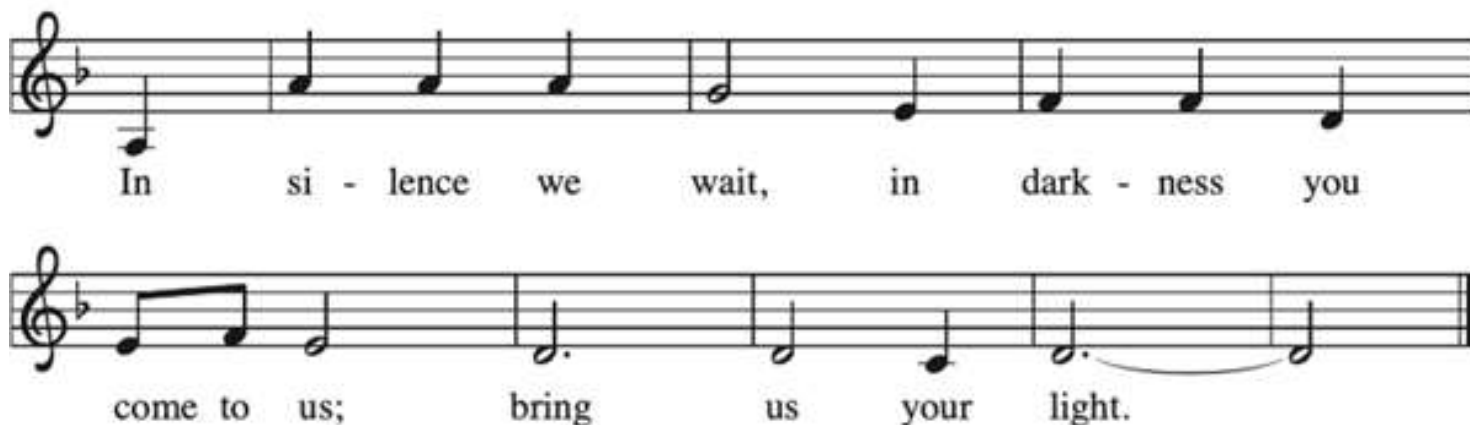
We share peace by waving to those worshipping online or through the public access channel and then with those in the sanctuary. Bows, signs, fist bumps, handshakes, are all honored!

MEAL

OFFERING MUSIC

Our Special Offering throughout Advent will be given to Lutheran Disaster Response Middle East Crisis. LDR is working with partners in the Middle East to get humanitarian supplies to people affected by the Israel-Hamas War. Checks can be written to Good Shepherd with "LDR" in the memo line.

***OFFERING SONG:** ACS 998 In Silence We Wait



Text: Susan Masters, b. 1957

Music: IN SILENCE WE WAIT, Susan Masters

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***OFFERING PRAYER:** Let us pray...**Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING – HOLY:** p. 107-108, 110

***LORD'S PRAYER:** p. 112 – Our Father in heaven... (we'll use this version of the Lord's Prayer during Advent)

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. Ushers will direct you out of your pew, up the aisle near parking lot and to the altar rail where you can hold out your hands to receive gluten and dairy free bread. The plate of cups will then be offered for you to select wine or grape juice. If you prefer a blessing, indicate by placing your hands in front of your heart. If you need an individual, pre-packaged serving of bread and wine, please request that of your server. Place wine/juice cups in the basket by the altar as you return to your pew.

COMMUNION SONGS: Lamb of God p. 112-113; ELW 254 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, ELW 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.

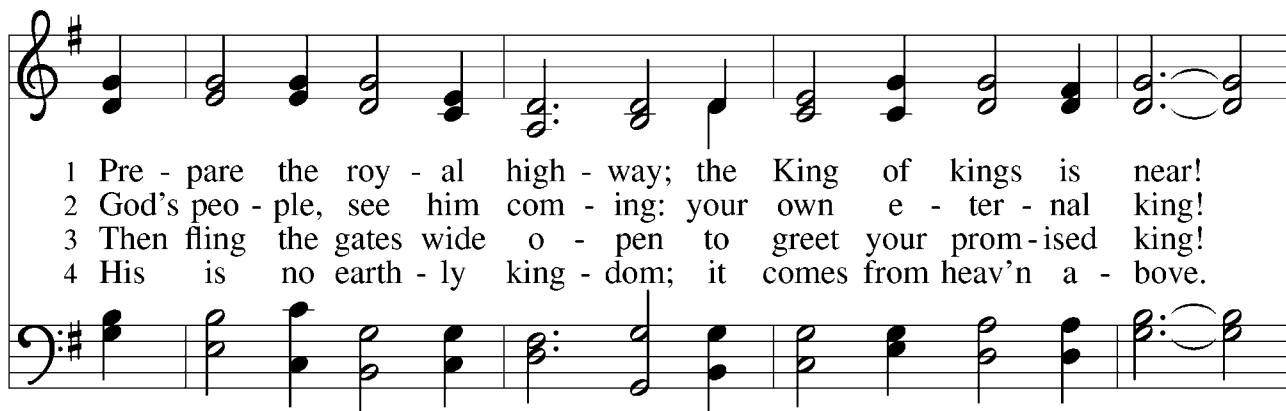


Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

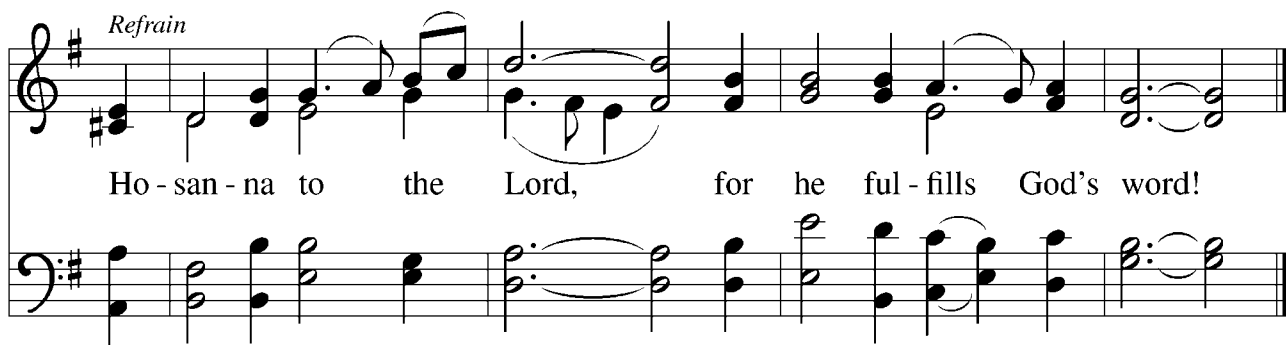


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

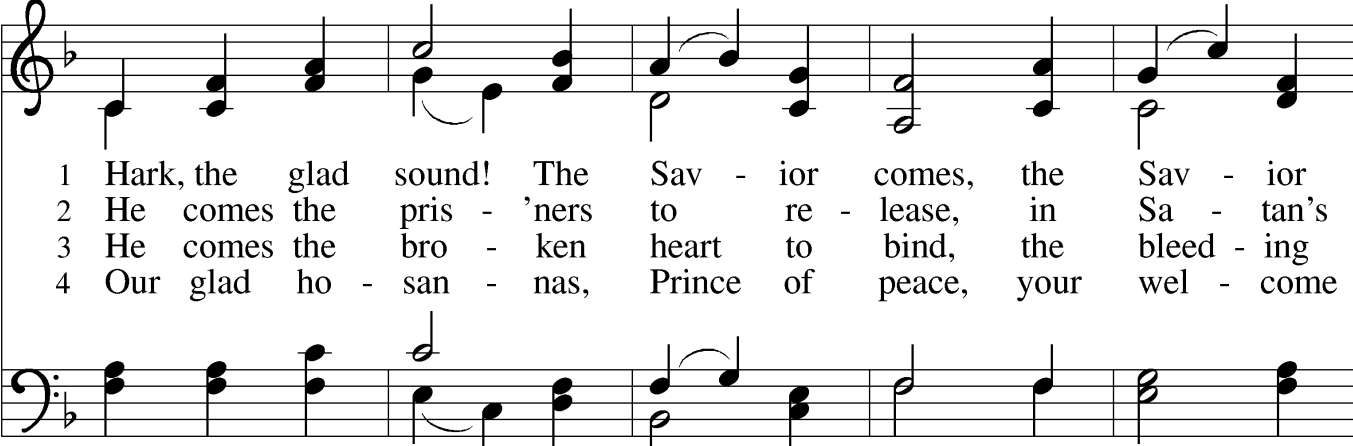
TABLE BLESSING- PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING


SENDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING ... Amen.**

***SENDING SONG: ELW 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!**



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

***PRAYER BELL**

***DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “Savior of the Nations, Come” - Paul Manz

The postlude sends us out for service in the world. Feel free to use this time in any way that helps to send you out!

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY – USHERS & GREETERS: Dave Siefken, Tom Buresh, Lyle & Sue Luzum; READER: Kelli Gapinski; CANTOR: Jill Phillips; ASSISTING MINISTER: Megan Buckingham; ADVENT WREATH LIGHTERS: The Caton Family; FELLOWSHIP: Mike & Kim Huinker, Jeff & Cindy Ernst, Lyle & Sue Luzum, Jennifer Self, JoAnn Aulwes, and Jan Siefken; ORGANIST & PIANIST: Brooke Joyce; PREACHER & PRESIDER: Pr. Amy Zalk Larson

TRANSITION UPDATE:

- A call committee will be formed by the annual meeting on Feb. 4. There is a detailed outline of the call process in the December Newsletter and on a handout in the Gathering Space.
- Monday evening Council met and voted unanimously to confirm our Executive Committee's unanimous recommendation to enter into agreement with **Pastor David Wrightsman** of Stillwater, Minnesota, **as our Intentional Interim Pastor.** He is in worship today – and you can learn more about him on our website under “News”. We look forward to Pr. David serving among us beginning January 1st!

ADULT FORUM TODAY: LUTHER COLLEGE'S TIES TO INDIAN BOARDING

SCHOOLS: Dr. Anna Peterson, Luther College Associate Professor of History, will present her research about some of the ways that the College was involved in the Bethany Indian Mission School in Wittenberg, Wisconsin. This forum continues our understanding of the role of the Boarding Schools and how the White church contributed to long-standing racism against Indigenous People. On January 28, Luther College archivist and Good Shepherd member, Hayley Jackson, will talk about the records the College has that pertain to the Bethany Indian Mission School, how they came to our possession, and issues we face now regarding such materials.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSALS: Youth and children rehearse again today in the sanctuary from 10:45-11:30am for the Children's Christmas Program.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SAVE THE DATE: The Program will be offered Sunday, Dec. 17th at 5:00 pm. Please join for a simple sandwich, chips, and homemade treats dinner following the program in the Fellowship Hall. A free-will donation at the dinner will support the ELCA Youth Gathering Trip.

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES continue **December 13th and 20th 5:30-6 p.m.**, featuring reflections on the book *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times* by Reverend Dr. Otis Moss III, and the singing of Negro Spirituals.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY AT CHRISTMASTIME: As is our tradition, Altar Guild has arranged with The Country Garden for members and friends to provide poinsettias for the Christmas season at \$15.00 per plant. Red poinsettias wrapped in gold foil will be placed on the altar rail for services beginning on Christmas Eve, December 24. You are welcome to remove yours after Christmas Eve, but no later than Saturday, January 6.

- Plants may be given in honor, as memorials, or as a gift by including names with the order. Names will be included in bulletins. Please email, or print clearly, the names of those for whom you are dedicating the poinsettia.
- Orders with payment must be submitted to the Church Office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 15th. Contact the church office via phone, email, note, or put your check in the offering plate. Checks accompanying each order should be made payable to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, with Poinsettia in the memo line.

WREATH LIGHTING INVITATION: Each Sunday and Wednesday during Advent worship, families are invited to light the advent wreath at the beginning of worship. Sign-up on the website under "Sign Ups" or in the Gathering Space.

MISSION ASSISTANCE FUND NEED: Good Shepherd has a Mission Assistance Fund set up to help those needing emergency assistance. Funds are distributed at the discretion of the Pastor and 2 congregation members on the committee. Currently, this account is depleted and we need funds to help those who stop by needing emergency assistance. To designate funds to this account, give money at Fellowship Hour (basket at the front of the serving table) or denote "Mission Assistance Fund" on a check or envelope.

GOOD SHEPHERD SERVING & PROVIDING FOOD FOR JANUARY DECORAH

COMMUNITY MEAL: A free Community Meal is held the first Thursday of each month in the Gathering Space of Decorah Lutheran Church. This meal serves 100-200 people from 5:00-6:15 p.m. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College and different organizations provide volunteers, salads, and desserts. **Good Shepherd is scheduled to provide volunteers, salads, and desserts for the January Community Meal.** Sign-up in the Gathering Space, online, or contact the office. Read below for further details:

SALE OF PALESTINIAN ARTISAN GIFTS: Sunday, December 17, before and after worship, Gathering Space - A wide selection of beautiful Palestinian handwork will again be available for sale before and after worship by Good Shepherd members Martha Monson Lowe and George Lowe. All proceeds go directly to the Palestinian artists. Payment can be made by cash or check.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY UPDATE: There is no Prayer Shawl Ministry meeting in December, but yarn is available in the Annex. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17. If you have any questions, please contact Jeri Laursen. Her contact information is in the Church Directory.

“LIVING STONES” 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REPORT: 111 Statements of intent have been received, surpassing the goal of 100 Intents! Our congregation has increased our intents for financial giving in 2024 by over \$28,000 compared to 2023 giving, exceeding our goal of \$25,000 in new giving for 2024. Thanks be to God for forming us into Living Stones and building us into a Spiritual House!

LUREN SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT: On **Sunday, December 10th at 2:00 p.m.** “Hope for Resolution and Peace” is the theme of this year’s Luren Singers Christmas Concert, which will be held at **Trinity Lutheran Church, 205 East Main Street (MN Highway 44), Spring Grove, Minnesota.** The 60-member male chorus is directed by Good Shepherd member Dr. David Judisch, with Rachel Storlie as guest soprano soloist. A number of Good Shepherd members sing with the Luren Singers. A free-will offering at intermission will be divided between the Houston County Food Shelf and the Houston County Ring and Run.

STEPHANIE HOFF’S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: Our member Stephanie has Stage 5 chronic kidney disease, is now on dialysis, and is still hoping for a kidney transplant. Information about Stephanie and living kidney donation is available at goodshepherddecorah.org/mystory

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK: Tristan: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM M-F. Erica: 10-5:00 PM Wed-Thur.

PRAYER LIST

Good Shepherd Family: Bonnie Flora, LaVerne Ramsey, Ingrid Callaghan, Ginny Olson, the family of Glenn Nelson, Donna Bahr, Helen Hermeier, James Barth, Marion Hanson, Stephanie Hoff, Ed Hover, Harland Nelson, Janet Gall, Jutta Anderson, all residents and staff at Aase Haugen, Eastern Star, Wellington Place, Mosaic Homes, and Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, and those preparing for public ministry: Kathryn Thompson and Kristin Kopperud-Stinn

Relatives and Friends: Sid Sampson (brother-in-law of Marty Steele), Miriam Plautz (aunt of Melanie Folkerts), Arlene Lecander (mother of Tim Lecander), Lily Laursen (granddaughter of Reg & Jeri Laursen), Bob Fahrenkrug (grandfather of Sarah Wicks), the family of Amber Einck (friend of Jane Borelli), Maryn Olson (daughter of Ginny Olson), Noi Tran (Kim Kavan's mother), Karen & John Silseth (brother and sister in law of Kris Peterson), Frank Barth (James Barth's Brother), Nathaniel Judisch (son of Dave and Gail), Dennis Martin (brother-in-law of the Slinds), Nathan Scheuerelein (grandson of Bonnie Flora), Lynzee Makowski (friend of Laurie Biedermann), Todd Hove (son of Gloria Hove), Aaron Buzza (son of Jim and Kathy), Marilyn Walli (Cousin of Marv Slind), Mary Beth & Bayo Oyeade and the Mashiah Foundation in Jos, Nigeria, and our Companion Synod in Hungary

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

563-382-3963 office@goodshepherddecorah.org goodshepherddecorah.org
Pastor Amy: Cell 563-419-0140 pastoramy@goodshepherddecorah.org

WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS and especially to Luther Students! It is a joy to worship with you. You are welcome to enjoy really great coffee, juice, treats, and conversation down the hall after worship – follow the crowd. Sit anywhere!

ALL ARE WELCOME TO SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION. It is Christ's table and Christ is the host. Instructions are included in the communion section of the Order of Worship.

THE PRESENCE, ENERGY, AND NOISE OF CHILDREN ARE MOST WELCOME HERE!

The sound of a child in worship is the sound of a new Christian being formed. This congregation is glad to share in this work. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. A nursery with toys and activity bags are available. Mothers are welcome to nurse anywhere that works for you and your child. An Infant Feeding Chair is available in the music office (hallway outside of sanctuary) for more privacy if desired.

RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT: This Statement was approved at the annual meeting of the congregation on February 6th, 2022. It was developed through the work of the Racial Justice Team which held listening sessions with the congregation. A portion of the Statement is printed here each week. Find the full statement at goodshepherddecorah.org/Racial-Justice-Statement or by scanning the code.



***We publicly declare** that we will actively pursue racial justice in all aspects of our congregational life and make changes to adopt antiracist policies and practices around worship, education, advocacy, stewardship, governance, and through our community partnerships and relationships.*

(Ephesians 2: 14-15, Isaiah 56: 6)